



# PRESS RELEASE

## House Armed Services Committee

### Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **HOUSE APPROVES FUNDING TO IMPROVE MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, READINESS AND EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS**

*Today, the House endorsed the Armed Services Committee's effort to address some of the growing quality of life, readiness and modernization shortfalls facing today's military, by passing H.R. 1401, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, on a 365 to 58 vote. Upon final passage, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Floyd Spence, issued the following statement:*

"I am pleased that a bipartisan majority of the House has endorsed the Armed Services Committee's continued efforts to address decade-long concerns about the declining state of the U.S. armed forces.

"In attempting to manage the competing pressures and risks associated with an expansive U.S. national security strategy and diminishing defense resources, H.R. 1401 is guided in large part by the priorities identified by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Our first step was to put the defense budget on sounder fiscal footing. Thus, H.R. 1401 increases the President's budget for the fifth consecutive year and is consistent with the \$8.3 billion defense spending increase called for by the Budget Resolution. With this increased spending, a number of initiatives have been taken to enhance the quality of military life, to improve the readiness of the force, and to accelerate the pace of equipment modernization.

"The additional funds provided in this bill, when combined with the additional funds in the Kosovo supplemental, will cover a large percentage of the critical unfunded priorities that the Joint Chiefs identified in the Administration's defense budget for next fiscal year. However, revitalizing our military forces will take an even more aggressive and sustained effort in the years ahead – years during which we will be left to manage the growing risks associated with the U.S. armed forces' ability to protect and promote our interests around the world."

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